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property" which they deny to American property. One more quotation. Our few surviving communistic societies "have in them the seeds of disintegration and death, since they appeal to the selfishness of human nature rather than to its generous impulses."

The source and aim of the book is too evident to need pointing out.

Cornell University.

E. A. R.

Digest of Political Economy, and Some of its Applications to Social Philosophy. By G. VERSIAN PICK. Pp. xii., 156. London: Swan, Sonnenschein & Co. 1892.

The alternate title of Mr. Pick's book alone indicates that it is an epitome of J. S. Mill's *Principles of Political Economy*. What at first appears strange editorial remissness, becomes later intelligible through the apparent identity in the writer's mind of Mill's *Principles* and the science of political economy. This is clearly shown in the introductory sentences of the Preface.

The primary purpose of the book, it is stated, is to serve as a popular summary of economic truths. In this direction such a work is naturally of little value. Even the most readable digest of Mr. Mill's treatise, repeating in unmodified faith his theory of value and capital, would be clearly unsuited for establishing "the plain truths of the science." When propaganda takes the form of almost epigrammatic condensation, the doctrine, however sound, will certainly not "find favor with the masses."

The natural design of the book,—use by students in conjunction with Mill's treatise,—is later suggested, in the hope that it will enable them "to produce the main principles of the science and deduce therefrom without hesitation." A satisfactory epitome of the *Principles of Political Economy* would be at least acceptable, and it is to be regretted that Mr. Pick has not aimed at making academic use the primary and entire one, instead of the secondary and partial purpose of his book. As it is, the general scope of the work renders it unserviceable for precise use, and its inherent character unfit for popular use. The classical arrangement of the five books of the *Principles* into chapters and sections is displaced by a purely arbitrary division into numbered paragraphs. The Table of Contents is unpagged, and an index is lacking altogether. Condensation is disproportionate to student-needs. Book III., on Exchange, is expanded with some justification from the one-fourth which it constitutes of the *Principles* to one-third of the *Digest*; but Chapter XV., on "A Measure of Value," is dismissed with a suggestive paragraph (p. 87): "On this subject we refer the reader to the chapter devoted to it in Mill's '*Political*'

Economy.' We will, however, remark that it is a subject of little importance." Chapter XVI., on "Some Particular Cases of Value," occupies two full pages of the Digest and but three of the Principles. Space is lacking to indicate the positive errors and inexact statements that mar the work. Such are the naïve remarks (p. 52): "When land is cultivated and barely produces the laborer's subsistence, it cannot pay rent; but when there is a surplus, this is rent," and the puzzling sentence (p. 7): "The only productive powers of capital are those of labor and natural agents, though a portion of it may produce tools and machinery"—a clear misunderstanding of Mill's somewhat involved statement.

As an incomplete review of classical economic doctrines, Mr. Pick's book may be of some slight use. That it will otherwise contribute to "the welfare of a nation," or "the making of a people better and happier," which the author asserts alone actuated him in its preparation, is unfortunately to be doubted.

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The Origin of Metallic Currency and Weight Standards. By WILLIAM RIDGEWAY, M. A., Professor of Greek in Queen's College, Cork. Pp. xii., 417: University Press, Cambridge, 1892.

This very able work may be said to be an application of the historic method to the allied branches of numismatics and metrology. Its general object may be inferred from the title. Specifically considered, there are two distinct aims which the author has in view; the first is the demolition of the older theories of the school of Boeckh, which inclines to the doctrine of a primal convention establishing the use of a particular article as a medium of exchange, and also to the theory that weights and measures in historic antiquity originated in the scientific mathematical metrology of Assyria. The second object is constructive, and insists upon the empirical origin of weights and measures, the universal use of the ox as the original standard of exchange value, and the subsequent derivation of a gold standard from equating the value of cattle into a definite amount of gold.

We cannot withhold our expression of admiration for the thorough erudition, especially as regards philology, and for the very ingenious employment of historic induction which are evinced throughout the whole book. But we are disposed to think that the author has accomplished his first object much more completely and irrefutably than his constructive theses. The proof of the empirical origin of weights and measures by the use of natural measures of capacity, such as seeds and hollow quills, is convincing. The disproof of the scientific, mathematical origin of the standards of antiquity is equally effective. But